

margin it is penetrated by considerable tracts of swamp and semi-swamp lands, which project southward from Pamlico river and form properly the western extension of Bay river swamp. Along the southern shore of the Neuse river, the soil is mainly a close gray loam. The great Dover pocoson, occupying more than one hundred square miles in the southwestern angle, is elevated sixty feet above tide in its central part, and is very flat and sterile for the most part, but has strips of oak and pine flats radiating in all directions from the centre along the numerous streams.

Craven county is interesting historically, as being one of the original Proprietary counties. It was formed from Bath county, and derives its name from William, Earl Craven, one of the Lords Proprietors. It is more interesting, perhaps, from its having been selected by the Baron De Graffenreid, as the locality of his Swiss colony, which was planted here in the early years of the eighteenth century, the point of settlement at the junction of the Trent and Neuse rivers, having been named after Bern, the principal city of the Swiss canton from which the colonists were transplanted. The colony did not flourish; yet in process of time it became the seat of refinement and high intellectual culture, and some of the leading men of North Carolina draw their origin from this place. During this year, (1896,) the city of Bern, in Switzerland, presented through the Swiss Minister, Mr. Pioda, a flag bearing the emblem of the Swiss and the colors of Bern, to the city of New Bern.

The city is beautifully situated at the junction of Neuse and Trent rivers, the Neuse forming its eastern, and the Trent its southern boundary: both wide and beautiful streams. The soil upon which it is built is light and sandy, and gently slopes to the rivers; consequently the drainage is perfect. Owing to its situation at the junction of two wide rivers, and only twenty-eight statute miles from the ocean, the winters are mild, and the summer heats are greatly modified by the daily sea breeze from the southwest and southeast.

This is the largest trucking centre in the State. Thousands of boxes and barrels of potatoes, cabbage, melons, asparagus, lettuce, spinach, cucumbers, early peas, beans, &c., are shipped annually. Also small fruits; but this is hardly second to the immense business done in fish and game. These subjects are treated under their several heads.

Craven county possesses one valuable peculiarity in a land so near the flat sandy ocean beach. The entire county is underlaid either with marl or with a conglomerate of shells as hard and as durable as stone, which is used for building purposes and also for the manufacture of lime. On the Trent river it is found in inexhaustible quantities, and on the sides of the river it rises in banks to the height of fifteen or twenty feet.

New Bern, the county seat, and the only considerable town in the county, has a population of 7,843. It is beautifully laid off and well shaded, handsomely built, with fine public buildings, numberless fine residences, extensive business houses, mills and factories, and does a very extensive business in fish and trucking.